IN THE CLAIMS

The current claims follow. For claims not marked as amended in this response, any difference in the claims below and the previous state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error.

1-35. (Cancelled).

36. (New) For use in a CDMA wireless network comprising a plurality of base stations capable of communicating with a plurality of mobile stations located in a coverage area of said CDMA wireless network, a partitioned selection and distribution unit (SDU) comprising:

a first controller associated with a first one of said plurality of base stations capable of performing a radio link protocol function related to wireless communication links between said first base station and at least one of said plurality of mobile stations; and

a second controller associated with a mobile switching center (MSC) of said CDMA wireless network capable of performing a radio independent function related to transmission of wireline data comprising at least one of voice traffic and data traffic between said CDMA wireless network and a wired network coupled to said CDMA wireless network, wherein said radio independent function comprises at least one of converting a bit rate of voice traffic, converting a bit rate of circuit data, and processing data traffic.

37. (New) The partitioned SDU set forth in Claim 36 wherein said radio link protocol function comprises selection of preferred ones of incoming wireless traffic frames received from said first base station.

38. (New) The partitioned SDU set forth in Claim 36 wherein said radio link protocol function comprises controlling a transmission power of a selected one of said plurality of mobile stations.

39. (New) The partitioned SDU set forth in Claim 36 wherein said radio independent function further comprises a decompression of voice traffic from a first bit rate to a second bit rate.

40. (New) The partitioned SDU set forth in Claim 39 wherein said decompression is performed by a vocoder.

41. (New) The partitioned SDU set forth in Claim 36 wherein said radio independent function further comprises a transcoding of circuit data from a first bit rate to a second bit rate.

42. (New) The partitioned SDU set forth in Claim 36 wherein said radio independent function further comprises a conversion of data frames received from said first base station to data packets suitable for transmission over a packet data network coupled to said CDMA wireless network.

43. (New) The partitioned SDU set forth in Claim 36 wherein said radio independent function further comprises a separation of voice and data packets.

44. (New) The partitioned SDU set forth in Claim 36 wherein said first controller is disposed in said first base station and said second controller is disposed in said MSC.

45. (New) A CDMA wireless network capable of communicating with a plurality of mobile stations located in a coverage area of said CDMA wireless network, said CDMA wireless network comprising;

a plurality of base stations capable of wirelessly communicating with said plurality of mobile stations, a first one of said plurality of base stations comprising a first controller capable of performing a radio link protocol function related to wireless communication links between said first base station and said plurality of mobile stations; and

a mobile switching center capable of transferring call traffic between said plurality of base stations and a wired network coupled to said CDMA wireless network, said mobile switching center

comprising a second controller capable of performing a radio independent function related to transmission of wireline data comprising at least one of voice traffic and data traffic between said CDMA wireless network and said wired network, wherein said radio independent function comprises at least one of converting a bit rate of voice traffic, converting a bit rate of circuit data, and processing data traffic.

46. (New) The CDMA wireless network set forth in Claim 45 wherein said radio link protocol function comprises selection of preferred ones of incoming wireless traffic frames received from said first base station.

47. (New) The CDMA wireless network set forth in Claim 45 wherein said radio link protocol function comprises controlling a transmission power of a selected one of said plurality of mobile stations.

48. (New) The CDMA wireless network set forth in Claim 45 wherein said physical radio independent function further comprises a decompression of voice traffic from a first bit rate to a second bit rate.

49. (New) The CDMA wireless network set forth in Claim 45 wherein said decompression is performed by a vocoder.

50. (New) The CDMA wireless network set forth in Claim 45 wherein said radio independent function further comprises a transcoding of circuit data from a first bit rate to a second bit rate.

51. (New) The CDMA wireless network set forth in Claim 45 wherein said radio independent function further comprises a conversion of data frames received from said first base station to data packets suitable for transmission over a packet data network coupled to said CDMA wireless network.

52. (New) The CDMA wireless network set forth in Claim 45 wherein said radio independent function further comprises a separation of voice and data packets.

53. (New) A method of operating a CDMA wireless network comprising a plurality of base stations capable of communicating with a plurality of mobile stations located in a coverage area of the CDMA wireless network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving in a first base station at least one of voice traffic and data traffic transmitted by a selected one of the plurality of mobile stations;

performing in the first base station a radio link protocol function related to wireless communication links between the first base station and the selected mobile station; and

performing in a mobile switching station of the CDMA wireless network a radio independent function related to transmission of wireline data comprising at least one of voice traffic and data traffic between the CDMA wireless network and a wired network coupled to the CDMA wireless network, wherein the radio independent function comprises at least one of converting a bit rate of voice traffic, converting a bit rate of circuit data, and processing data traffic.

54. (New) The method set forth in Claim 53 wherein the radio link protocol function comprises at least one of selection of preferred ones of incoming wireless traffic frames received from the first base station and controlling a transmission power of a selected one of the plurality of mobile stations.

55. (New) The method set forth in Claim 53 wherein the radio independent function further comprises at least one of decompressing voice traffic from a first bit rate to a second bit rate, transcoding circuit data from a first bit rate to a second bit rate, and converting data frames received from said first base station to data packets suitable for transmission over a packet data network coupled to said CDMA wireless network.